

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. – 20 (canceled)

21. (new) A radioactive therapeutic seed system, comprising:

 a plurality of radioactive therapeutic seeds, at least one of the therapeutic seeds having a different level of radioactivity relative to other seeds;
 means for selectively reconfiguring a marker in the at least one of the therapeutic seeds by a physician just prior to insertion of the seed into a patient.

22. (new) The system according to claim 21, wherein:

 said means includes a hole preformed in the at least one of the therapeutic seeds, and at least one marker to effect a seed having a marker of different size or configuration relative to the other seeds.

23. (new) The system according to claim 22, wherein:

 the markers are of different length.

24. (new) The system according to claim 21, wherein:

 different seeds are provided with differently sized markers to indicate their respective levels of radioactivity or half-life.

25. (new) The system according to claim 21, wherein:

the means includes a marker that can be changed in shape by the physician just prior to insertion into the patient.

26. (new) The system according to claim 25, wherein:

the marker can be changed in shape by application of heat.

27. (new) The system according to claim 25, wherein:

the marker can be changed in shape by coupling another marker relative to the marker.

28. (new) A radioactive therapeutic seed system, comprising:

a plurality of therapeutic seeds, wherein at least one of the therapeutic seeds has a marker which is different relative to other seeds, the seeds being adapted to receive the markers just prior to insertion into a patient.

29. (new) The system according to claim 28, wherein:

at least one of the therapeutic seeds has a different level of radioactivity and/or different half-life relative to other seeds and the marker in the at least one therapeutic seed indicates the different level of radioactivity and/or half-life relative to the other seeds.

30. (new) The system according to claim 28, wherein:

the markers are differentiated from each other by their size.

31. (new) The system according to claim 28, wherein:

the markers are differentiated from each other by their length.

32. (new) The system according to claim 28, wherein:

the markers are differentiated from each other by their shape.

33. (new) A radioactive therapeutic seed system, comprising:

a plurality of therapeutic seeds;

first markers provided in said seeds;

at least one the seeds including a preformed opening for receiving a secondary marker capable of distinguishing that seed from others of the seeds in terms of its respective level of radioactivity or half-life; and

a secondary marker insertable into the preformed opening just prior to insertion of the seed into a patient.

34. (new) The system according to claim 34, wherein:

the preformed openings are provided in the first markers.